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The Highlander

Thursday **March 21 2024** | Issue 632

INSIDE: HALIBURTON CURLER REPEATS AS COLLEGE CHAMP PAGE 21

FREE



OUCH...

Patrick Saini and his Haliburton County Huskies were ousted from the OJHL playoffs March 16, putting an end to their 2023-24 season. See the full story and more photos on pages 18-19.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

The Rez set to hit market

By Mike Baker

The Rez in downtown Haliburton will be back on the market in the spring, with owner Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) saying its intent is to sell the building with existing tenants remaining in place.

The building has had a rocky run in recent years. After being transformed from a medical centre into low-cost housing in 2009, it has provided shelter for dozens of County residents over the past 15 years.

The space was originally owned by Peter Curry, who sold to Nick Adams in 2017. Adams had been the part-time building manager, taking care of maintenance and helping residents whenever a problem arose. After moving to New Brunswick, Adams sold the Rez in November 2021 to a group of investors from Brampton.

He returned in late 2022, re-buying the property after the new owners defaulted on the mortgage. Adams tried to keep the Rez going, serving as a live-in manager for several months before moving back to NB. Unable to keep up with mortgage payments, and with the property sitting on the market for several months with little interest, he turned his keys over to HCDC, the mortgage holder, in December.

Pat Kennedy, HCDC board chair, confirmed March 19 the investment firm retains ownership of the property. He said staff has been working with representatives from the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to clean up the space and assist with four remaining tenants.

"Our goal is to put it back on the market for sale – we're not in the landlord business. We're in the process of getting it ready for resale... it'll come on the market in another 30 to 60 days, I think," Kennedy said.

He noted there has been some interest. Sources confirmed a potential deal between Adams and local non-profit Places for People fell through in early winter.

Fay Martin, the housing agency's vice president, said they will reassess the situation should the property hit the market.

Continued 'Remaining' on page 2

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HCDC board chair Pat Kennedy said the corporation has resumed ownership of the property. *File.*

Remaining residents can stay

Continued from page 1

Kennedy said whoever buys the space will likely have to adopt the existing tenants, who are protected by the Residential Tenancies Act.

“Our intent is not to put them on the street, that’s for sure. Our intent is to sell the property as is with those residents still in place,” Kennedy said. “There’s four people in there right now. It has capacity for 15 people. We have spent some time cleaning the place up. We’re going to paint one of the rooms to show prospective buyers

what it can look like.”

Kennedy praised Adams for running the operation for as long as he could, saying, ideally, HCDC will find someone willing to continue that work.

“We were certainly very supportive of Nick and his efforts to keep The Rez going. He worked very hard at it constantly, gave a lot personally. We’ll try and carry on. We’d love to find somebody that would carry on keeping the residents, and maintaining that space.”

Our intent is to sell the property as is with those residents still in place.

Pat Kennedy

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County's newest park is taking shape

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County's newest park - Herlihey Park in Highlands East - is taking shape, and expected to open to the public this year.

Carol and Karl Marcus donated \$400,000 to Highlands East to purchase the property in 2017, and donated funds for the master plan. Its name is in honour of their parents, Beatrice and Harold Herlihey. Located on Dark Lake in Wilberforce, the seven-acre property was once home to the Wilberforce veneer plant. The Marcus' wanted residents to be able to enjoy the property for years to come.

The park will feature walking trails, a beach, a picnic pavilion and recognize the history of the area.

The master plan was presented in 2019, with an expected 2022 completion, but COVID-19 delayed that until 2024.

Public works operations manager, Perry Kelly, told council on March 12, the township was advertising for a contractor to finish the park.

"The tender will be inclusive of everything required to have the park complete as the drawings are shown," Kelly said. "Staff will then work with the successful proponent through stages of completion."

He added staff had recently applied for funding to install an EV charging station at the park. If they get the money, he said they'll work with the consultant to include it in the plans.

"Staff are excited to complete this project," Kelly added.

Peter North, of North Design Office Inc., which did the master plan, has said, "Herlihey Park will be the defining recreational amenity of Wilberforce's waterfront through a lively mix of programs, activities, and healthy ecologies."

Master gardeners

Meanwhile, the Haliburton County Master Gardeners (HCMG) will be working with Highlands East and other partners to naturalize the new park.

Project leads, Carolyn Langdon and Merryn Camphausen, spoke at the March 12 council meeting.

Referencing their work to build a multi-media tour along the Minden Riverwalk, they said Herlihey Park could be their second major project.

They are proposing to use their own expertise, volunteers, and resources from the Eco Action Community grant, the Suzuki Foundation, Watersheds Canada, the Coalition of Haliburton County Property Owners' Association and U-Links to create information materials, and install a self-guided multi-media tour along Herlihey Park's proposed trails.

The two said, "it is likely that we would identify biodiversity gaps in the existing plantings, and could propose a plan, plant list, identify contract growers and supplies, and supervise the actual planting of additional plantings."

They added Dark Lake is a valued trout lake and the research resources of U-Links



Highlands East mayor Dave Burton at a recent meeting. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

could be used to make the connection between the township's initiatives for Herlihey Park and how this will enhance and protect the fresh water resources of the watershed.

They fleshed out the project would identify shoreline, meadow and reforested native plants, shrubs and trees. They would describe how these benefit native pollinators, songbirds, aquatic and other wildlife species, how native plants increase biodiversity, their role in the food web, and how these areas mitigate flooding, extreme weather events, health of the lake, and contribute to the health, safety and well-being of residents.

They added they will have to assess the park, come up with a planting plan, create

a web-based, self-guided, walking multi-media tour, signage, and information about the use of, and importance of, the area to the Indigenous people, with an understanding the Curve Lake First Nations were consulted in the planning stage.

Highlands East agreed to a letter of support to present the project to the Eco Action Community Funding Program of the government of Canada.

The master gardeners said the money would be for three years.

"I understand that the first phase of the park will unfold in 2024 with the establishment of trails and parking lots. The timing could be ideal," Langdon and Camphausen said.

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Budget finalized

Highlands East ratepayers are going to see an average tax hike of \$35.56 on \$100,000 of assessment this year.

Council struck their 2024 budget March 12 with a 6.79 per cent levy increase – or a jump of \$564,606 from 2023.

Weighted assessment growth for 2024 is 1.21 per cent.

CAO-treasurer, Brittany McCaw said the biggest spend is roads, at 45.56 per cent of the budget; followed by policing at 15.11 per cent, general

government (14.47 per cent), parks, recreation and facilities (11.47 per cent), fire (10.87 per cent), and all other areas under 10 per cent.

Some of the major roadworks will include the McColls bridge project, Clement Lake Road, Irondale Road, Upper Paudash, and South Wilberforce surface treatment.

Users of water, and wastewater, will also see a four per cent increase on both of those services. (*Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais.*)

CAO-treasurer Brittany McCaw delivered the final budget. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*



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Tourism assistant Eric Casper accepted the award on behalf of the County. *Submitted.*

County wins award for Hike Haliburton

Hike Haliburton picked up a gong at the IMAGINE 2024 Festivals & Events Ontario conference (FEO) awards gala Feb. 28.

The provincial organization named Hike Haliburton as one of the top 100 festivals in Ontario at the ceremony in Niagara Falls.

Submissions from FEO members were received in the fall of 2023, and judged by an independent panel.

Hike Haliburton is a free, bi-annual event held in winter and fall across the Highlands. The fall edition was established 20 years ago, as a way to promote the vast network of hiking trails across the County. The event is organized by the County's tourism department, and hikes are guided by local volunteers. The multi-day event attracts visitors from across Ontario, as well as local

residents, who can participate in various levels of hikes, either on foot or snowshoes. Last year's festivals had 910 participants.

Warden Liz Danielsen was pleased, and acknowledged the work and effort behind the scenes.

"We are fortunate to have breathtaking scenery and trails in Haliburton County and Hike Haliburton is a chance to explore our backyard and natural surroundings," Danielsen said. "I am pleased the County was recognized for executing a well-organized event that draws visitors to our area to enjoy all that we have to offer. I wish to thank the staff and all the volunteers who contribute to making the festivals a success." *(Lisa Gervais).*

Minden fire department rescues adult and dog

The Minden Hills Fire Department said it responded to an ice-water rescue call March 15.

"Due to the efforts of well-trained and equipped firefighters, the situation was quickly brought under control and fire crews successfully rescued one adult and a dog from the water," acting fire chief Robert Thibert said.

He added that prior to this week's seeming return to winter, the Highlands has been plagued by inconsistent and unseasonably warm temperatures over the past couple of weeks.

"Minden Hills fire department urges residents and visitors to be particularly vigilant around ice on bodies of water and moving water during this time. The ice is not safe. Parents and guardians are advised to remind children about ice safety. When ice conditions are dangerous, children should be directed to stay clear of open

waters, creeks, and rivers. We would also like to remind folks to try your best to keep pets away from the water/ice during this time," he added.

Early eclipse tips

The Township of Highlands East has issued the first local information about the April 8 partial eclipse.

In a March 18 media release, they said looking at the uncovered sun without protection can cause retinal burns, blurred vision, or loss of eyesight.

"It is not safe to look at the sun without eye protection." Glasses with specialized filters adhering to the ISO 12312-2 international standard can be worn to prevent eye damage. It might be worth looking into an eclipse box.

The eclipse is expected to start just after 2 p.m. EDT with a full eclipse starting at about 3:20 p.m. and moving eastward. The specific time and duration of the eclipse will depend on location. Areas outside the path of totality will observe a partial social eclipse.



The Highlands will experience a partial eclipse. *Unsplash.com.*

They noted people will be on the move, so visit Destination Ontario's website.

While driving, they say to avoid looking at the eclipse. Stay updated on road conditions before, during, and after the

eclipse on 511on.ca The Canadian Space Agency's website also has information. *(Lisa Gervais).*

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Archie Stouffer Elementary School presents their 1st annual student exhibit with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. Selections for our permanent collection and new acquisitions are also on display. The exhibits will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 30, Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.
- Attention all crafters! Join the UFO's (Unfinished Objects) craft group to work on your neglected projects. The next gathering is at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Friday, March 22 from 1-3 pm.
- Connection and Response, an exhibit by artist Bruce Cull will be on display from April 4 – June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The opening reception with the artist takes place on Saturday, April 6 from 1-3 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation. The Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

CALL FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for two volunteers to participate as members on the Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee for the remaining (2023-2026) term of Council. If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating on the above committee, please download and submit a completed Advisory Committee Application Form. Visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom for full details.

Application deadline is Wednesday April 3, 2024 by 12:00 noon. For an Application Form or for more information, please contact Vicki Bull at vbull@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 515 or Lisa Fitton at lfittom@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 527.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- March 26 – Special Council Meeting (2024 Final Budget and Business Plans)
- March 28 – Regular Council Meeting and 2024 Budget (Ratifying 2024 Final Budget and Business Plans)
 - April 11 – Regular Council Meeting
 - April 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

2024/2025 WASTE DISPOSAL CARDS

Your new waste disposal card will be included with your final tax bill that will be mailed out in June. Starting July 1, you will need to bring your new waste disposal card each time you visit a waste disposal site. The waste disposal card provides access into the waste disposal site and allows up to 156 clear bags of household garbage to be disposed of within the one-year term of the card. Additional clear bags of household garbage will be subject to a fee.

The new waste disposal card will help ensure garbage bag allotments are adhered to and encourage recycling and waste reduction habits.



Council, and the public, got a 2023 landfill update March 14. *File.*

Minden Hills landfill goes to the animals

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills landfills collected the weight of nearly 40 elephants, a whale, and a rhino - in electronics, scrap metal, and household batteries - manager of waste facilities, Chelsea Cosh, told council at its March 14 meeting.

In 2023, people dropped off just over 21 tonnes of electronics materials. It was the equivalent of the average mass of a Sei whale, according to Cosh.

She added an African bush elephant has an average mass of six tonnes, and last year, more than 231 tonnes of scrap metal was collected - equivalent to nearly 39 of the pachyderms.

Another fun fact was the collection of 1.4 tonnes of household batteries - almost the weight of a Javan rhinoceros.

"Many changes in the latter part of 2023 took place, including enhancing the

department's promotion and education efforts, additional waste diversion programs, improved signage at the waste disposal sites, and a revised cottage kit," Cosh said. "Staff have seen valued efforts by residents to abide to the regulations of the sites, as well as proper sorting and recycling."

She noted there were three household hazardous waste (HHW) events, with more than 600 people coming and dropping off more than 25 tonnes.

The township held its first confidential paper shredding event in December. In exchange, they accepted donations to the Minden Community Food Centre. Twelve people got rid of 902 pounds of paper. "Staff filled a large tote and another large cardboard box with food and toiletry donations," Cosh said.

She further noted there are 244 FoodCycler units in the town, with people diverting their

organic waste from the landfills.

When it comes to diversion programs, the township collected fewer vehicle batteries, 59 compared to 124 in 2022; more from blue box containers (361 tonnes, up from 332); less corrugated (22 tonnes down from 71); more fibres (335 in 2023, compared to 305 in 2022); less construction and bulky waste (1,442 tonnes, down from 1,813); fewer electronics (21 tonnes versus 31); more empty auto containers (2.28 tonnes from 1.307); more household batteries (1.4 tonnes, compared to just over one); less HHW (25 tonnes last year, 37 the year before); fewer propane tanks, and more scrap metal (231 tonnes versus 212).

As for vehicle counts, Cosh said Scotch Line was down to 79,713 in 2023, compared to 87,089 in 2022. Ingoldsby was down as well, to 15,889 vehicles, from 17,252. The trend continued for Little Gull (7,709 in

2023, from 7,463 in 2022); but Iron Mine saw more traffic, up to 4,205 vehicles from 3,572.

In addition, more cottage kits were sold last year, 1,167, up from 1,083 in 2022.

Cosh said, "staff continue to look for innovative and cost-effective ways to offer existing recycling programs to residents as well as opportunities for new programs. These efforts, along with positive recycling habits from residents, help reduce the amount of waste that is going into the landfill. This, in turn, extends the life of the landfill and reduces the township's carbon footprint."

Coun. Bob Carter quipped, "since African elephants and Javanese rhinos are thin on the ground here in Minden Hills, I just wanted to know if you had an equivalent of moose, or white-tailed deer that you could give us."

Cosh joked back "duly noted, that will be taken into consideration for next year."



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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

No daytime burning

Acting fire chief, Robert Thibert, brought to council an updated open air burning bylaw and separate fireworks bylaw.

He said the four County chiefs had been working on making bylaws consistent across the Highlands.

He told council changes of note included added definitions, standardized forms, and standardized burning times.

"It is hoped these changes will make it easier for residents to interpret and follow the bylaws," Thibert said.

The burning time was picked as the standard, and daytime burning restrictions will remain 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. They will issue seven-day permits for commercial-use only.

He added the fire chiefs will continue to work to streamline the permitting processes, fees and standardized signage installation across the County.

Thibert further noted, "in Ontario, the increasing risk of wildfires is growing closer and closer to home, and this has resulted in proposed changes to our burn bylaw. The fire chiefs within the County, along with our councils, are keeping everyone's safety our upmost priority. Minden is no stranger to these destructive fires, as our fire crews fought hard to protect a part of our township last year from a fast-moving wildland fire."

Council received the report for information purposes only and plans to discuss both bylaws further on March 28. The other townships are working on the new bylaws.

Council signs off on STR bylaw

In discussing the proposed short-term rental bylaw, Coun. Tammy McKelvey said she thought it was going to coincide with a municipal accommodation tax. However, mayor Bob Carter said the MAT was still being reviewed by the County so would be sequential.

Bylaw officer Paula Ingram went to the City of Kawartha Lakes recently to meet with its bylaw department to get some advice as to how their bylaw is working, as well as tips.

The question of requiring rentals to have signage with names was also questioned. Ingram said there was concern about possible vandalism at STRs with signs. Coun. Pam Sayne said she thought it was a legitimate concern. CKL does not require a name.

After lengthy debate, CAO Cynthia Fletcher said, "we need to get the bylaw passed today, folks." Ingram added it was a working document and there would be a lot of public education. "We're not out to get rid of our tourist dollars. We will work with people."

The bylaw was passed with minor amendments.

Inmates to clean up Scotch Line landfill

Minden Hills council gave the go-ahead for inmates from the Beaver Creek minimum security institution to come clean up around



Firefighters across the region hope to avoid brush fires, like this one in Minden Hills last year. *File.*

the Scotch Line landfill.

Manager of waste facilities Chelsea Cosh asked for council support for the idea at a March 14 meeting.

She said, "during a recent inspection, staff noted significant amounts of debris and other items around the perimeter of the Scotch Line landfill, generally in the treed areas. This scattered debris could be a cause for concern with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks."

She said staff wanted to be proactive and found out about the Beaver Creek inmate

program. She added they'd made contact with the program supervisor. They were interested, and willing to commit seven inmates to the cleanup project. Cosh said the plan is to do it on a Wednesday when the landfill is closed. She hopes to do it this spring or summer.

Coun. Bob Sisson asked if it could be done in a day. Cosh said that would be ideal but there may be an opportunity to expand beyond one day, and work at other sites as well. *(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*



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ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

STRs discussed

Algonquin Highlands is the latest municipality to sign off on the County's short-term rental (STR) bylaw.

At a March 7 council meeting, the township's elected officials supported the document, albeit with some changes.

Mayor Liz Danielsen sought clarification on how potential STR properties located on municipally owned shore road allowances will be licensed. She suggested applicants should be required to purchase the shore road allowance – starting the process at the time of making an STR application. While the process to purchase the shore road allowance is ongoing, she suggested applicants be required to take out a license of occupation to maintain operations.

Coun. Sabrina Richards suggested giving people five years to purchase the shore road allowance, noting it could be cost prohibitive for some. Planner, Sean O'Callaghan, said that would cause issues with the township's currently policies, instead recommending applicants be given a year to purchase, which can be extended if necessary.

Council also modified occupancy restrictions – with children aged two and under being exempt from renter counts. Danielsen said this is because infants "don't have anywhere near the same impact on septic systems as an adult does."

Richards wanted STR owners to be given ample notice for municipally scheduled non-emergency inspections – council landed on seven days. They also removed requirements for WETT inspections for new applicants, providing they've had one completed within the past five years, while stipulating chimney inspections be carried out by a certified professional.

Budget approved

Council formally adopted its 2024 budget, which carries a 5.77 per cent tax rate increase for ratepayers. That equates to a \$19.33 increase per \$100,000 of a residential property's assessed value.

The municipality is projecting costs of \$6.675 million for the year – up 6.95 per cent from 2023. Transportation costs, which include roadworks and airport-related



AH treasurer Jean Hughes presented a second draft of the 2024 budget March 7. *File.*

expenses, are the biggest bill, coming in at just under \$2.7 million (a 7.45 per cent increase); protective service costs, for fire and OPP services, are projected at just over \$2.2 million (an 8.41 per cent increase); parks and recreation costs at \$1.25 million (up 9.28 per cent); environmental management, which is mostly landfill related, at \$803,000; general governance at \$470,000; and planning and development at \$135,000.

"I'm just tickled pink with where we've landed with this... we were hoping to get our [tax rate increase] in under six per cent, so we were right on target," said Danielsen. "This is looking really good."

Pursuing housing

Council has agreed to follow up on a recent proposal from Habitat for Humanity Peterborough-Kawartha that would see the municipality potentially partner with the non-profit on an affordable housing build in the community.

In February, Susan Zamboni, CEO of the local Habitat chapter, said she was looking for opportunities to develop in Haliburton County. She asked AH council to consider donating land for a future Habitat build.

Danielsen said the township has four lots earmarked for development – two along

Hwy. 118, one off Chelsea Lane, and another fronting Little Hawk Lake Road. Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux suggested the township make all four properties available to Habitat, though Danielsen suspects the ones along Hwy. 118 will be of most interest.

Rec centre project progressing

Adam Thorn, the township's public works manager, expects renovations to the Dorset Recreation Centre to stretch into the summer – telling council not to expect an opening until the first part of July.

He said work was progressing well – most of the interior painting has been completed and new LED lighting installed. Ventilation and ductwork have also been completed.

The space designated for the Haliburton County Public Library is still in progress – Thorn said the construction team is waiting on delivery of the door for a new fire exit, while flooring is still to be installed. The men's and women's washrooms and main lobby/reception area are still a work in progress, Thorn said.

"It's been a lot of work and it's still ongoing, but the project is moving along well," he told council. (*Algonquin Highlands new compiled by Mike Baker.*)

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To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada



Small houses – big ideas

It's interesting – and exciting – when you see a pattern emerging.

Last week, a fellow by the name of Kevin Taylor made an appearance at a Highlands East council meeting.

He talked about the prospect of something called 'little blue cabins' potentially coming to Bancroft and surrounding communities in future.

The fact his presentation was during the same week a report said Bancroft had the fastest growing housing prices in Canada was not lost on me. And coming to Highlands East meant he also thought the concept could work in Wilberforce and maybe Cardiff and Harcourt.

Taylor discussed how mental illness, addiction or substance use, and unemployment all lead to homelessness.

Trent University student Ellen Buck-McFayden looked into chronically homeless people in Bancroft, finding about 20 folks, most high school dropouts, who had experienced past trauma, and lacked supports. Most were long-time residents, former classmates and neighbours, who had not had a lot of opportunities in life.

It was also found that while a small number, these people were a mighty drain on health care and OPP, and fell through that crack between the province and township.

Just like in Haliburton, they've hosted homelessness summits. In 2023, the

province's minister of mental health and addictions attended, along with the MPP and mayor. Perhaps more politically-motivated than their Highlands counterparts, "another" more than \$6M was pledged to Hastings County to address homelessness.

That's where the idea of 20 sleeping cabins came about. Measuring eight by 16-feet, they have two windows and a door, microwave, mini-fridge, heater, smoke and carbon dioxide detectors, a bed, desk, chair, and wardrobe. They are attached to a larger community building with kitchen, laundry, showers, washrooms, office and meeting rooms. They have access to professionals, whether medical, social, or jobs and training.

This isn't new. The folks in Bancroft had studied models in Kingston, Kitchener, Hamilton, Calgary and throughout the U.S.

A model with 20 units could cost \$1.5 M for site development and servicing, community building and cabins, and landscaping. It could cost another \$400,000 a year to operate. For once, a price-tag for affordable housing like this did not floor me.

Also last week, there was a story in the *Toronto Star* by Joelle Kovach titled 'Modular cabins to end homelessness: How this Ontario city's project is succeeding.'

Peterborough council took some flack but had the guts to install 50 small modular cabins in the Rehill parking lot. It's early days, but so far so good. They did it in an

amazing six-month period, ending homelessness for 50 residents. That's huge. It's costly, too, naturally, at \$2.4M to build and \$1.9M in annual costs. But politicians reckon it's saving costs in other areas.

On March 23, meanwhile, Sean Campbell, executive director of Union Cooperative in Kitchener-Waterloo, will serve as the U-Links celebration of research keynote speaker. He'll discuss ways to bring innovative housing projects to small communities. It's an important topic, with U-Links recently partnering with local residents Fay Martin, Fay Wilkinson, and Dave Wilfong, and grad students from Trent, to look into housing alternatives for Haliburton County. Results of that project will be available in the fall.

We urge County, and all other politicians to check out the Highlands East delegation, read about Peterborough's success story, attend Places for People's Sleeping in Cars event at Head Lake Park March 22, and attend the celebration of research. It's time for a made-in-Haliburton solution to housing and homelessness, and the need for worker accommodation.



By Lisa Gervais

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A new way of being

Choosing a career as a Personal Support Worker (PSW) inside our failing Ontario health system can be an exasperating, thankless and empty experience.

But for one person, working conditions and frustrations, combined with a creative problem-solving vision, leads us to a better model for at-home care.

Danielle Turpin, the founder and president of Home Care Workers Cooperative (HCWC) and executive director of the Cooperative Care Alliance (CCA), is the PSW with this creative vision, meeting the needs for both PSWs and their clients. It's her vision of recreating a human resource with dignity and respect, wrapped up inside a collaborative business model.

As a PSW, Danielle was moved into action due to the poor working conditions of home care and the world of PSWs. She experienced frustration about time restraints and lack of focus on elder care, which was taking a back seat to profit. So, she walked out of a low paying PSW job, where she had no say or satisfaction, due to the restriction and limited

vision of her employers.

In her words, by "prioritizing the well-being and empowering of PSWs, exceptional care for clients becomes a natural outcome." At HCWC, she said PSWs aren't just employees; but co-owners. The employees recognized that being a part of something from an owner's perspective, automatically motivates them to be their best and to work towards something they know not only benefits them, but all involved.

PSWs joining and working inside of this model raise the level of work ethic and care. Co-ownership, in turn, fosters greater conscientiousness and ownership of one's work choices, which in turn, positively impact and enhance the care of their clients. Danielle continues to inspire and educate as she moves through her processes. Along the way, Haliburton County has been given a model to follow and a way for PSWs to take control of their working environment.

I recognize the importance of the work development and change that Danielle has forged ahead with. This is just the beginning

of something that fills a limited resource gap within home care in Ontario, and a means to change our limited health system in Ontario. Yet, it is only the beginning.

Of course, the closing of this gap improves the level of care, but it is only solving the problem for home care clients who can afford it. In light of this, it may not be an equitable solution for all.

More critical thinking and creative alternatives must be brought forward within our communities to stop the endless drain and breakdown of support for those who choose to age at home and have limited funds.

Let's work together, cooperatively speaking, to continue the gap analysis and fill the holes in our health system with inspiring, creative alternatives. I thank you Danielle, for sharing your journey with us and going beyond inspiring us to think outside of the box.



By Peter Ferri



SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Email your photos to editor@thehighlander.ca

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Spring at Ritchie Falls by photographer Leanne Young of Glimpses of Glory Photography.

LETTERS

Speed cameras for Glamorgan

Dear editor,

Having read “Making Glamorgan Road safer” Feb. 22, I couldn’t help but guffaw or wonder if the individuals who are under the perception that lowering the speed limit and spending less than \$1,000, will make one iota of difference on that death trap road?

After living on the 507 for 25 years, travelling the notorious 507 and Glamorgan twice, and sometimes four times a day, five days a week for work, I can assure you the suggested remedy will do absolutely nothing to stop or even slow down the speed jockeys who vie for position to go nowhere fast.

Not only are the deplorable driving habits of far too many who drive the Glamorgan a major concern to one’s safety but also one of the most poorly marked roads in the entire County.

This road has sharp curves not recognized by signage or reflective arrows until you’re on top of them, blind spots due to rocks,

curves, or hills, stopped school buses or various four-legged animals - add vehicles moving so fast on these curves, hills and blind spots over the centre line forcing oncoming traffic to swerve to avoid being hit.

Those of us who obey the posted speed limits or slower based on knowledge of that road and/or conditions, frequently have heart-stopping moments. And, the summer visitors aren’t even here yet. When you add their trailers, motorcycles, and excessive speed racing to get to cottages, it gets even more interesting.

Unless the Glamorgan is patrolled 24-7 in both directions continuously by law enforcement, which we know won’t ever happen, the speed reduction signage will do absolutely nothing to make that road any safer.

Maybe a better investment would be speed cameras. Think of just how much money would be put into the township coffers if those were snapping images of license plates.

Leslie May
Trent Lakes/Haliburton

Wonderland Road revisited

Dear editor,

A hearty thank you to the taxpayers of Dysart et al for paying for the obviously unprofessional resurfacing of Wonderland Road last year.

With this new road surface, we can now experience voluminous clouds of dust again, (we suffered over six weeks while this unnecessary road resurfacing took place, during and especially after its so-called progress last year; we couldn’t sit in our back yard patio or open our windows due to the incessant clouds of acrid dust).

It looks like an ongoing continuation of the same for this year. Thank you for the snowplow filling my grass-lined ditch with Wonderland gravel and spewing copious amounts of gravel 15 feet up my paved driveway, all as a direct result of this resurfacing.

Thank you for the numerous potholes that now grace the road surface. Of course, this

was deemed necessary to shore up the road base, as it was curtly explained to me by the roads department.

A disgraceful enterprise. Before this debacle began, our road was dust free, nicely paved, albeit with a few small repairable potholes, and was the path of many joggers, bikers, walkers, and dog owners.

Now, it’s not fit for man nor beast. To add insult to injury, many people on this road own fine automobiles that are now subject to possible stone chips to the car’s paint and windshields.

Shame on Dysart et al for putting us in this untenable situation. Hopefully Dysart et al can correct this travesty sooner than later.

Jack & Sharon Sinclair
Haliburton

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Minden Legion offering seniors programming

By Lisa Gervais

Hearing Canada Services will be making its way to the Minden Legion Sunday, March 24 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. as the branch continues new informational programming for seniors.

Chris Burton has been working hard behind the scenes on the schedule, which started March 3 with Minden OPP giving a seminar on fraud and safety. That was followed up this past Sunday, March 17 with the Minden EMS offering advice on emergency medical services.

Burton said he is already working on booking April offerings.

April 7 will feature fraud on phone passwords. April 14 will see a travel consultant speaking on travel insurance and safety tips. And on April 21, a Rexall drug store representative will discuss all that they do.

Burton said the learn series involves a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

He said the Legion is putting on the series free of charge for seniors and he is already lining up speakers for May and June. He said the speakers are also volunteering their time and the Legion gives them a thank you card, hat and a little gift.

Burton has been with the branch for 20 years. People would recognize him from the colour party. He is a big part of the annual poppy campaign and is also the sports officer. He said he loves playing cards and talking to people. He estimates he does 48 hours with the poppies.

"I love doing poppies when poppy season comes around. I do 48 hours with poppies. I love doing it because of the stories that people tell me. And when the people are donating, I tell them all the money stays here."

He said with March being fraud prevention month, there are also lots of tips for seniors being put out by the OPP.

On April 20, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Minden Legion is also hosting a fundraising concert featuring Jeff Moulton and Mike Clewlow, with proceeds going to the Minden Community Food Centre. Admission is by donation.



Chris Burton of the Royal Canadian Legion Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Time to apply for seniors grants

Applications are now open for the Ontario Seniors Community Grant Program.

The seniors grants support local, not-for-profit community groups and organizations to deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians aged 55-plus.

Every year, the Ontario government provides hundreds of grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 each. The funding allows community groups across the province to offer a wide variety of activities that help seniors to live independently, ensure their safety and security, connect them to their community, avoid isolation and help them achieve greater financial security and social connections.

Activities and services supported by the program include:

- Fitness and nutrition classes to keep adults aged

55-plus active, healthy, and socially connected to their communities.

- Opportunities for community engagement, such as book club gatherings and technology training seminars, to reduce social isolation and increase volunteerism.
- Increasing access to information through initiatives such as free lectures and supports for health prevention and promotion.

Applications for 2024-25 are open until March 28. Community organizations interested in applying can visit Ontario.ca/getfunding for more information. (Lisa Gervais).

New restaurant Buzz-ing at Sandy Lane Resort

By Mike Baker

Having recently invested in Sandy Lane Resort, new owner Efqay Singh said he’s already feeling at home in Haliburton County.

Singh and his family, recent immigrants from India, purchased the Algonquin Highlands-based resort earlier this year, formally taking over the property Feb. 1. He said it was his first venture into the hospitality industry in Ontario, with the deal coming about completely by chance.

“We had never been to Haliburton County before – we only moved to Canada in December. It was just coincidence that we ended up here. We were scouting for some resort properties in western Ontario, out near Kenora, but the market really pulled us back towards eastern Ontario,” Singh, who prefers to go by Efqay, said. “It’s been a great first few weeks here. We’re very excited.”

One of Efqay’s first moves was to renovate and reopen the in-house restaurant at Sandy Lane Resort. A new eatery, The Buzz, has been operating for several weeks, running dinner service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and a breakfast/brunch buffet on Sundays.

Local chef Michael Wright, who also cooks at Mulligan’s in Minden, has been hired to run the kitchen. Efqay said it’s been a great partnership thus far – while the menu is small, featuring pizzas, burgers, butter chicken and salads, they will be expanding their options, with new features added



Sandy Lane Resort is under new ownership, recently opening a new restaurant, The Buzz. Submitted.

weekly. He said a bar will be opening next week, with appetizers added to the menu.

Having also upgraded the reception and main lobby area, Efqay said he will be slowly investing in the rest of the property over time. There will be some landscaping work in the spring.

He plans to introduce new programming at the resort, geared towards children and those interested in the arts.

“We want to work to make this more of a family place. I’m putting a calendar together for next year with different offerings – there are a lot of gaps in certain months where we’d like to bring things to the community that people would be interested in doing. For example, in April, we will look to do more with the arts and culture, where we attract writers and artists for different workshops and programs,” Efqay said.

“We also want to have more winter programs for children, so they can come and explore the outdoors. Wellness programs for people looking to detox and get away from the stress in their lives. I’m very much wanting to focus on hospitality and creating new experiences for people,” he added.

For more information, visit sandylaneresort.com.



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Diane Peacock has been recognized with a certificate, honouring her work as timekeeper for more than 150 games this season. Photo by Mike Baker.

Timekeeper racks up 160 games

By Mike Baker

There is rarely a more important person at the arena in Haliburton and Minden on Highland Storm game days than Diane Peacock.

The long-time timekeeper for youth hockey in Haliburton County recently celebrated a special milestone, having helped officiate her 150th game of the season. No matter the weather, or circumstance, when the puck has dropped at Highland Storm games this season, Peacock has usually been the one there manning the clock and ensuring results, and all game details, are uploaded to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA).

Now into her 11th season, Peacock said timekeeping has become a real passion – a job she takes seriously at least five days per week.

“I just love working with the kids, I love watching the kids play. I love seeing them grow up – I’ve been doing this a long time now. The kids I started out watching at seven years of age are all playing U18 this year. I’ve had the privilege of watching them develop through the system,” Peacock said.

“You do get to know everyone – my last U18 local league game, the kids were all playing really hard and there were a lot of penalties. One of the kids in the box told me, ‘we’ll try to be good for you the rest of the night,’ but you always take things like that with a pinch of salt!” she added.

Starting out during the 2013/14 season, Peacock served as the main timekeeper in Minden. It was a baptism of fire, she recalls, learning the ropes during a particularly rough U15 game. Back then, everything was recorded using pen and paper – a far cry from today’s “digital age,” where everything is uploaded to an iPad.

Peacock says she learned everything she knows from Eric Nicholls, who put in 40 years timekeeping in Haliburton, before retiring last year.

“Eric really was my mentor. I’ve sure missed him this year,” she said.

Peacock is the only senior timekeeper in the County – she added a young apprentice this season, Jacob Lloyd, which has allowed her to take some time to herself. Ideally, she said each arena, in Haliburton and Minden, would have two timekeepers that could rotate and more evenly share games.

Prior to this year, she said the highest number of games she’s worked was between 90 and 95 – “definitely less than 100. This year, I just had to hunker down because if I didn’t get out to do it, the games couldn’t happen,” she said.

She was recognized for timekeeping her 150th game on

Feb. 27, an U18 match-up in Minden. This weekend, she expects to be back inside her office for her 160th, and final, game of the season – U8 playoffs.

Peacock broke down how things generally go on game days. She’ll arrive at the rink 45 minutes prior to puck drop – will get her iPad, pen and paper, and heater ready in the timekeeper’s area, visit both the home and visiting coaches so they can input their lines into the system, then touch base with the officials before getting settled.

Then, after the opening whistle, she gets to work. Peacock said she must be eagle-eyed, watching the officials to be sure of any calls so she can input them into the system, and display any penalties on the scoreboard. It’s important, she said, to know all the signs for penalties and goals.

Post-game, she again touches base with the referees, who must sign off on game sheets before they can be uploaded to the OMHA system. Peacock said she’s typically the last one out of the arena.

“If I’m just doing the one game, I’ll be at the rink for just over three hours. Double headers, I can be around from 6 p.m. until just before midnight,” she said.

Tournaments, such as the Minden Silver Stick or Bernie Nicholls tournament, are full-day commitments. Peacock said she’ll usually spend 12 hours at the rink, assisting with up to 15 games.

She remembers getting involved after hearing Minden was short on timekeepers while watching her neighbour’s kids, Matt and Ryan Manning, play. One of her standout memories from the past 11 years was watching Matt lift a provincial U18 championship in 2018.

Another was having the honour of participating in a ceremonial puck drop in the first ever game at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Oct. 1, 2021.

“Lots of great memories, lots of emotions,” she said, choking up.

While she isn’t planning on stepping away anytime soon, Peacock said she’s focused on finding some new blood to help ahead of next season. She noted timekeeping is a paid position in both Haliburton and Minden, with plenty of other perks.

“The kids, the coaches, the referees, they all become part of your extended family. I’ve made some wonderful connections doing this – I’ve loved every single minute of it,” Peacock said.

Anyone interested in becoming a timekeeper can contact Peacock at povertyhill1175@interhop.net.

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Maundy Thursday - March 28
St. Paul’s, Minden at 7:00pm

Good Friday - March 29
St. Paul’s, Minden at 10:30am

Easter Sunday Services - March 31
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Skeletons come out of closet on stage

By Mike Baker

Highlands Little Theatre (HLT) is returning to the stage in Haliburton next month following a four-plus year hiatus.

The local troupe is made up of amateur performers committed to bringing community theatre to life in the Highlands. With long-time volunteers Jack Brezina and Kate Butler at the helm, the group has spent months rehearsing for four shows, running April 3 to 6 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

The performance is an adaptation of Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced* – an unexpectedly humorous mystery, with plenty of twists, Brezina says.

"Most of us have skeletons in our closet – everybody on stage in this play has something they're hiding. So, it's a matter of figuring out, first of all, who are these people, and secondly, whodunnit? And you'll have to stay until the very last minute to find out," Brezina, who is directing the play, said.

The story centres on one of Christie's famed detectives, Jane (Ms.) Marple, who investigates after a murder is announced in advance in a local newspaper in a small village. The novel was published in 1950.

There are some changes, Butler said, with playwright, Leslie Darbon, inserting more comedy into the play.

"It's full of laughs," Butler, who serves as producer, said, noting it has a similar feel to the recent Haliburton Highlands Secondary



Highlands Little Theatre presents *A Murder is Announced* in Haliburton April 3 to 6. Submitted.

School production of *Clue*. "If people enjoyed *Clue*, then they're going to love this show. It's the same sort of hybrid of mystery and comedy."

The cast is made up of a dozen County-based performers, with a range of ages involved – the youngest in their teens, and oldest in their 70s.

Butler said she and Brezina started making plans for HLT's return last fall. This will be the group's first stage performance since 2019. They were weeks away from presenting *Vintage Hitchcock* – a play about a group of radio performers – in early 2020 but were forced to postpone, and eventually cancel, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than revisit that work, Butler said the group wanted to sink their teeth into something new and fun.

The main cast has been in place since before Christmas, with rehearsals running for the past three months. Bringing the story to life on stage are Rita Jackson, Victoria Bingham, John Jackson, Heather Norris, Ruth Carter, Bob Stiles, Karen Frybort, Sean Pennylegion, Jordan Kovacs, Scott Duggan, Norma Bingham, and Butler.

"The cool thing is we have some people who are brand new, with this being their first time performing, and then we have some real veterans – the old faithful who come out for every performance," Brezina said.

HLT has a storied history in the community, Butler said, with its first production in 1978. Formed at the time by "a group of local people who wanted to put on a show," the producer said that same mantra rings true today.

"It really is amazing to be bringing HLT back. It's true community theatre – it's about bringing people together to have a wonderful time," Butler said.

"This will be an entertaining way to spend an evening or afternoon. It's a chance to get back into live theatre, which has been missing for a while," Brezina said, noting he's come up with an interesting way to include the crowd. "We're asking audience members to fill out a ballot during intermission saying who they think did it. All correct answers will go into a draw, with a chance to win one of several prizes."

A Murder is Announced will run three evening productions April 3, 4 and 5, with an afternoon matinee April 6. Tickets are \$25, available at Up River Trading in Minden and Haliburton, or at the door.

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Foraging expert Steve Lukacic was at the Haliburton Highlands Museum March 10 for an intensive Chaga-focused workshop discussing the medicinal uses and health benefits of mushrooms. He taught participants how to accurately identify chaga and demonstrated safe and sustainable harvesting techniques, while discussing the many chemical compounds it contains and best practices for preservation and preparation. He will be back in Haliburton over the summer for a series of wild mushroom classes. *(Mike Baker).*

Lukacic, front, enjoys a cup of mushroom-infused tea at a recent Chaga informational workshop in Haliburton. *Submitted.*



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Luck of the Irish at the Haliburton legion

The Haliburton Legion was the place to be this St. Patrick's Day as those with Irish heritage – and those without – donned their green for an afternoon of socializing. Jeff Moulton and Mike Clewlow provided the music and attendees went all out with their Emerald Isle clothing.

Above: Callum Wood and legion second vice president, Chris Briggs. Top right: Val Jarvis and Adrienne Clark. Right: Pat Bradley, Izabel Janca, Frannie Blake, Johnny Dalla Costa, Laurie and Bill McFarland were all decked out. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



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Huskies done and dusted for season

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Huskies 2023-24 season came to an end March 16 as the Cobourg Cougars beat the locals four games to one in their first round East Conference series.

The blue and white struggled out of the gate this past Saturday, as they gave up a goal just 35 seconds in. Duncan Schneider fired in his first of the playoffs from Jonathan Kapageridis and Jack Falkner to put the Huskies on their heels.

Early in the second, the blue and white were unable to contain the hot Andy Reist. He scored from the equally threatening Trevor Hoskin and Parker Petruniak to put the visitors up 2-0.

The onslaught continued when Kaiden Harmon bulged the twine behind Brett Fullerton, at 6:48, from Michael De Sousa and Jack Lowry for a commanding 3-0 Cobourg lead. Coach Ryan Ramsay yanked Fullerton and put Logan Kennedy in the cage.

A normally raucous S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was subdued until Charlie Fink, with his first of the playoffs, made it a 3-1 game. He was assisted by Matt Milic and the indefatigable Patrick Saini.

But any hope of a comeback all but fizzled when De Sousa scored for the Cougars, this time at 11:04 of the second.

It was a scoreless third period as the clock ran out on the Huskies season, sending more than 600 fans home disappointed.



Antonio Cerqua battles in front of the Cougars net. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Huskies 2 Cobourg 5

On March 14, the Cougars put the Huskies in a do-or-die situation when they dominated the blue and white in a 5-2 decision on their home ice.

They again started quickly. Hoskin scored unassisted at 3:10. Then, Jordan Fuller took his turn with a goal at 6:15 from Hoskin. Reist gave the home team a 3-0 lead at 10:58 from Hoskin and Fuller.

The Cougars padded their lead to 4-0 in the

second with a Logan Kelly marker at 2:33, from Kapageridis and Harmon.

The Huskies mounted a mini-comeback. Antonio Cerqua found the back of the net at 17:35 of the second from Adam Smeeton. And, Saini notched his fifth of the playoffs, from Ty Petrou, at 18:36. The Huskies were down 4-2 with a chance.

However, Kelly scored his second of the game at 7:57 of the third period to hand his team the win.

Ramsay said other than game one, when the Huskies won in overtime “I don’t think we played well. Their go-to guys played pretty well. I think some of our go-to guys just couldn’t find a way to get on the scoresheet.” Team captain Saini was responsible for much of the offence in the series. Ramsay added Fullerton had an excellent game one but couldn’t find his stride the rest of the series.

“It’s a little bit disheartening because I think it was a team that was beatable, but

not the way we played. They played harder.” He noted the Huskies largely outshot the Cougars but ran into good opposition goaltending.

Reflecting on the season, the coach said he saw a lot of positives and a lot of negatives. However, looking to next season, he said there is a good core coming back, and as GM, he will be looking to fill roster spots.

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Top: Logan Kennedy prepares to replace Brett Fullerton. Middle: The Huskies celebrate their final goal of the 2023-24 season. Above: Charlie Fink speeds behind the Cobourg cage. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

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U18 LL Sharp Electric

The Sharp Electric U18 LL team consisted of very unique individuals and personalities. We had first-year players and players from rep hockey coming together to play as a team.

As the season went on, more games were played and there were a few road trips for tournaments. The team was starting to come together. We lost a few players along the way, but those who stuck with it and didn't give up, kept their chins up and their spirits high. The coaching staff never gave up and continued to provide leadership to this young team.

A few wins, a few losses, and a couple of ties as the season continued. Not going to lie, there may have been a few penalties along the way as well. One thing is for certain, those that stuck around always had each other's backs no matter what.

As we entered the final stretch of the season, the coaching staff will agree, we were watching some of the best hockey. This team has played with 100 per cent team effort every shift. They took some real tough opponents right to the final buzzer. Once back in the dressing room, the players were starting to feel good about playing at a 100



per cent effort level.

Now, it was time for the MPS playoff tournament. Going into the playoff tournament, the team was labelled as underdogs. But that didn't stop them from hitting the ice, and were up for a few hard-fought battles, a few losses and wins and being able to eliminate Parry Sound from the

playoffs. The season sadly came to an end.

As the head coach, I could not be prouder of the effort, the team development, and the personal development that everybody achieved this year. With every season, there are ups and downs, but I couldn't be prouder of a group of players that came together as a team.

I also want to give a big shout out to all of my bench staff for their help this season, as well as the parents and their continued efforts bringing their players to every practice, game, and tournament. Enjoy the off-season, have fun this summer, and we will see you next fall for another season of Storm hockey. *(Submitted by coach Dallas).*



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U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House

The U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House team started their season with lofty goals for themselves individually and as a team.

The effort put forth in practices and games allowed all of those goals to be reached and then surpassed.

Highlights of the season were winning the Silver Stick qualifiers in Haliburton then making it to the semi-finals at the international finals in Niagara Falls, winning our

league championship in the MPS despite being down two goals in the final 30 seconds of the semi-finals, and another tournament win to end the year at the March Break Bender in Newmarket.

As this team's coach, I couldn't be prouder of every player and hope their memories from this season last as long as I know mine will. *(Submitted by coach Tom).* *(Photos by Tim Tofflemire).*

Dobson repeats as national champion

By Mike Baker

Haliburton curling protégé Jacob Dobson added a major win to his resume this past weekend, joining an elite group of athletes to have won back-to-back national college championships.

Leading his Humber Hawks as skip, Dobson claimed his second successive gold medal at the 2024 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Curling Canada College Championships, in Fredericton, NB March 12 to 16.

The Humber side went 8-1 at the tournament, defeating provincial rival Mohawk College in a tightly-contested championship game.

"It's such an exciting feeling being a national champion for a second time – everyone has worked so hard this season. We did a really good job during the week of not thinking about this as us going for the repeat. We just took things one game at a time," Dobson said.

The win is the culmination of months of hard work, which started last August with a trip to Scotland.

After winning the 2023 national championship, the Humber squad qualified for a place in the European Super Series – a recognized professional World Curling Tour event. Dobson rubbed shoulders with seasoned pros there, having the opportunity to test himself against some of the world's top curling talents.

The team turned heads at the tournament, with their performance enough to see them break into the top 100 in world rankings, placing as high as 97th. That gave them confidence heading into the college season, which culminated with a silver medal at the provincial championships, in Sault Ste. Marie in February.

Humber lost to Mohawk at provincials, with Dobson saying he and his teammates were determined not to let history repeat itself in Fredericton.

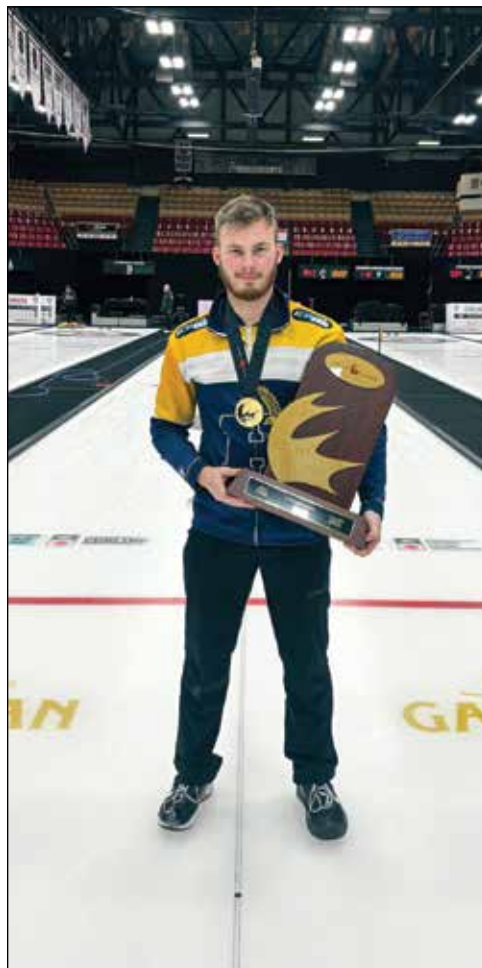
The team enjoyed a perfect start to the tournament, recording wins over Sault College, Concordia, NAIT, SAIT and Red Deer Polytechnic from Alberta, and Assiniboine Community College from Manitoba. Their one blemish was an 8-4 loss to Mohawk in their fifth game.

Qualifying for the championship bracket in second place, behind Mohawk, Humber enjoyed a comfortable semi-final match-up with SAIT, running away with a 10-5 win. That set up another meeting with Mohawk in the final.

There was a familiar face for Dobson across the ice – Haliburton's Liam Little was a member of the Mohawk squad. The two played together at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, earning a provincial title in 2020. Dobson said he and Little chatted throughout the week, with the pair hoping to battle it out for gold.

The final was a closely contested affair, with Humber eking out a 7-6 win.

"It all came down to the last shot – we had to make a double and stick for the win,"



Jacob Dobson won a second consecutive Canadian college curling championship March 16. *Submitted.*

Dobson said.

"Towards the end, they called a timeout, and our coach came out and basically said it's going to come right down to the end. At that point I just stepped away from the guys... I tried to calm myself down and get in the zone – you know what's on the line. You try not to think about it, but you know," he added.

The rest, Dobson said, is a bit of a blur. He remembers the last shot sticking and his teammates racing towards him in celebration. And then hoisting that familiar trophy high in the air.

The win ensures Dobson and his Humber teammates will be back at the 2024 Pointsbet Invitational – one of Curling Canada's premiere events that pits the top ranked teams in the country against winners from the college, university, junior and professional circuits. The tournament will be held in Calgary Sept. 24 to 29 and will be aired nationally on TSN.

Dobson said he'll likely be facing Brad Gushue – a six-time national champion at the Brier – in the first round.

Looking ahead, the 20-year-old said he'll be back for his fourth season at Humber in the fall and still harbours hopes of turning pro.

"I'm just trying to take things year by year – it's always something in the back of my mind, just seeing how far the game will take me. I got to play on the pro circuit a bit this season, so now I've had the taste I'm hungry for more," Dobson said.

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EVENTS

March 14-31
Stedmans Department Store in Minden is hosting an Easter colouring contest, with the winner earning a basket full of goodies. For children aged 12 and under. Visit Stedmans to pick up a colouring page and drop off when finished to enter the draw. Pictures will be put in the store windows for all to view. Submissions due by March 29. Draw taking place March 30. For more information, call 705-286-1188.

March 21, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Aging Together as Community town hall meeting at the Haliburton Legion. Join this local group as it shares the results of its ATAC community survey and creates a plan for next steps. Light refreshments provided. RSVPs were being taken until March 18, contact agingtogetherhc@gmail.com.

March 22, 6:30 p.m.
Skyline Dance Studio presents its Skyline Showcase at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Includes solo, duet, trio, all levels of competitive tap, jazz, and ballet. There will be two further shows March 23, at 2 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets on sale now. For more information, visit skylinedancestudio.ca.

March 22, 7 p.m.
The sixth annual Sleeping in Cars event is coming to Head Lake Park. Hosted by local non-profit Places for People, this fundraiser supports affordable housing developments in the community. Sleep in your car, truck, on a couch or tent. Includes a light breakfast. Pre-registration is required, with a minimum \$50 pledge per vehicle. For more information, visit placesforpeople.ca.

March 23, 10 a.m. to noon.
The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is excited to offer Land Trust Discovery Days again in 2024, providing a series of educational events, workshops and guided walks. The first event of the season will take place at Abbey Gardens and is designed to engage young learners about animal tracks and scat. Featuring presenter, Rick Whitteker. For children aged 5 to 12, with adult supervision. Please dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit haliburtonlandtrust.ca or contact Christel Furniss at admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca or 705-457-3700.

March 23, 5 p.m.
Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association Wild Game Dinner at the Haliburton Legion. Tickets on sale Feb. 15, cost is \$45 per person. For credit card purchased, call Laurie at 705-457-9664, or Linda at 705-457-2064. Tickets can also be bought in-person at HHOA on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, visit hhoa.on.ca.

March 23, 8 to 10 p.m.
Sir Sam's Inn and Spa presents keyboard artist Gary Baumgartner in Gunner's Pub performing roots, folk and pop classics along with unplugged original songs from his album Come On In. No cover. Come for dinner, stay for the music. To make a reservation, contact 705-754-2188 or info@sirsamsinn.com.

March 24, 1 p.m.
Haliburton Highlands Paddlers open house at the Haliburton Legion. Learn about the local club, meet current members, and get excited about being on the water this season. No registration required. Everyone is welcome.

March 24, 2 p.m.
Razzamataz Kids' Shows presents magician Eric Leclerc at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. A two-time Magic Champion, Eric will wow the crowd with his skills. For more information, visit razzamataz.ca.

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Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129
Haliburton weekly activities
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Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Scottish country dancing throughout February, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the main hall. Everyone is welcome. Contact Jim at 705-457-6962. Bingo is back, featuring a brand new machine. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

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Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519
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Tuesdays: Soup and sandwich lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
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(Owner of Mason Athletics, Dundas, for 40 years).

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Brian Mason at the Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay on Friday, March 15th, 2024 at the age of 68.

Beloved Husband of Teri (nee Pettes), dear father of Kenzie (Jamie Merritt), Jamie Lee Mason (Tommy Jardine) and chosen daughter Julia Searle. Loving grandfather of Joey and Arden Merritt. Brother of Bruce Mason (Marg), brother-in-law of David Pettes (Darlene), Jim Pettes (Cindy), Denise Brown (deceased) and son-in-law of Beverly Upton (Allan). Predeceased by his parents Donald and Hazel Mason. Fondly remembered and loved by many cousins, and nieces and nephews.

Brian will also be missed by the "Atta Boys", the "Asses from Dundas", his coffee buddies, fellow Hawk Lake cottagers and countless more friends and acquaintances, including the many customers at his namesake store.

A friend to all, Brian will be remembered for his larger-than-life personality, he always had time to share a laugh or nice long chat. He was born and raised in Fergus, then moved to Hamilton with his family and became an all-around athlete and football star at Westdale Secondary. He met and fell in love with his wife Teri on Little Hawk Lake, where his favourite place was still enjoying a quiet moment at their cottage overlooking that same lake. Together they made their life in Dundas, where Brian became a fixture in the town. They lovingly lived in and restored a 150-year-old farmhouse, built a successful business and raised their two daughters. Brian was just starting to enjoy a relaxing retirement in the Haliburton area and was looking forward to the completion of his dream home.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 11:00 am until memories and tributes of Brian can be shared at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home. Celebration of Life in Dundas to be planned for a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial donations to the Snowflake Meadows Rescue (cheques only) or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.



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EVENT

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED and will take place April 3, 4 & 5, 7 :30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton, and April 6 at 2 p.m. presented by Highlands Little Theatre. Tickets available at Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton. Friends please accept this as the only intimation.

CLASSIFIEDS \$9



In Memoriam
Ginny Hopkings

Ginny Hopkings, teacher, wife, mother, and beautiful soul, left us on March 9, 2024.

Born Virginia Ruth James in Sudbury, Ontario, Ginny spent her early years in Timmins, later moving to Port Credit. She completed her post-secondary studies at the University of Toronto.

In 1954, Ginny married Jim Hopkings and they settled in Oakville, where they would remain for many happy years.

Ginny began her career as a teacher in the public school system. After taking time off for a number of years to raise her two children, she returned to teaching at Sheridan College where she taught ESL to adult students. The many gifts she received from those students over the years spoke both to her teaching skill and the empathy she showed the people who were coming to Canada to seek a better life.

In retirement she and Jim moved to their beloved cottage in Haliburton. Ginny took up Tai Chi with great enthusiasm and advanced enough to become an instructor. The combination of teaching and Tai Chi resulted in what may have been the most rewarding time of her life.

In a tradition that began with Jim's mother, Ginny has donated her body to the University of Toronto medical program.

Ginny will be forever missed by her sister Doreen, her daughter Kirsty (Stephan), her son Jamie (Mary Lynn), her grandchildren Carter, Brody, Whitney (Gord), Jordan (Courtney), and her great-granddaughter Hazel.

A celebration of Ginny's life will be held at a later date.

WANTED

WANTED ANTIQUES

Furniture, advertising signs, gold, silver or costume jewellery, wrist & pocket watches, old coins, sterling silver, tea cups & china, records, military items & paintings, **Anythingold** etc.

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NOTICES

THIS IS TO NOTIFY – Jamie Madill that the contents he has stored in a rental unit at Francis Storage will be disposed of if we are not contacted by **March 31, 2024**. Please contact Francis Storage at 705-457-7170

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - **Sundays** - 10:30 am at Saint Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. **Mondays** - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist Church. **Wednesdays** - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

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SOLUTIONS FOR MARCH 21

1	T	A	G		4	I	N	A	D	A	Y		10	H	E	P	B			
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38	A	S	M	A	N	Y				41	F	I	S	T		42	A	C	E	
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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5	6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7
9	4	8	6	2	7	1	5	3

HELP WANTED



Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a Public Works Administrative Assistant

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from experienced, qualified persons for the Public Works Administrative Assistant position.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 pm on March 27, 2024** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



Township of Algonquin Highlands requires an Airport Coordinator

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from experienced, qualified persons for the Airport Coordinator position.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 pm on April 5, 2024** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a Public Works Supervisor

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from experienced, qualified persons for the Public Works Supervisor position.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 pm on March 26, 2024** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



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The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for a Payroll/Benefit Administrator

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer the newly created Payroll/Benefit Administrator position will coordinate and administer the County's payroll, benefit, and pension programs along with onboarding and leave activities.

For complete responsibilities and requirements of the position please visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

The hourly rate for this non-union position ranges from \$33.74 - \$39.47 per hour with a comprehensive benefit package.

Please submit a detailed resume indicating your skills and experience no later than Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 4:30pm to:

Tanya Rosenberg, Deputy Treasurer
trosenberg@haliburtoncounty.ca

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process. For accommodation options and to ensure full and equal access during the recruitment and selection process, contact Human Resources.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Stick With It

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Neck irritant on a shirt, maybe
 - 4 How Rome wasn't built, it's said
 - 10 HIV cousin
 - 14 Woman, of "Woman"
 - 15 Uncelebrated one
 - 16 Rochester's fictional love
 - 17 The Red Cross or CARE Canada, e.g.
 - 18 Carrying a "piece"
 - 20 Monsieur's enthusiastic assent
 - 22 Ont. capital and environs
 - 23 Take a load off
 - 24 Lightning event
 - 28 U.S. political cartoonist
 - 29 Ph.D. precursors
 - 30 Ukrainian singer who covered "My Heart Will Go On"
 - 31 Gynecologist played by Richard Gere
 - 32 Maker of Eau Sauvage
 - 34 ___ time (computer device usage)
 - 36 She's her little rink star's biggest fan
 - 38 Equal number of
 - 41 Word before pump or bump
 - 42 Leader of the pack?
 - 45 Laurel or Lee
 - 46 Day after dimanche: Abbr.
 - 47 "Not now but right now!"
 - 48 Precision bombings
 - 53 Verbal reaction to Slime
 - 54 ___ de plume
 - 55 All-out effort
 - 56 Soup with lamb and barley
 - 60 Point de ___ (French "opinion")
 - 61 Soldier's stint
 - 62 Makes a contribution
 - 63 ___ tu (opera title meaning "it was you")
 - 64 Fast jets, like Concorde: Abbr.
 - 65 Take a sledge hammer to, maybe
 - 66 Wasn't colourfast

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61					62							63		
64					65							66		

- Down**
- 1 Non-stop
 - 2 Sharp-boned, as a jaw
 - 3 Most gloppy
 - 4 One's two cents
 - 5 Condition in a vacuum
 - 6 Org. led by Mandela
 - 7 S. or N. state
 - 8 Guatemalan gal pals
 - 9 Title boy played by Streisand
 - 10 Sarcastic chuckle
 - 11 Rusty car collection, to some
 - 12 Grande ___, Alberta
 - 13 NHL commissioner Gary
 - 19 Real hoot
 - 21 Tenth mo.
 - 25 Bored reply to "How ya doin'?"
 - 26 Cautious
 - 27 School year division
 - 32 "Mad Men" Draper
 - 33 Like a luge track
 - 34 Texting system, for short
 - 35 Rollaway bed
 - 36 ___ in the balance
 - 37 White parts of tai chi symbols
 - 38 Sets up a goal
 - 39 Gritty wall sidings
 - 40 Establish the boundaries of, as property
 - 42 Invite to drop by
 - 43 Literary pause
 - 44 Puerto Rican Sweathog
 - 46 Inverted V-shaped Greek letter
 - 47 Rival of Colgate and Crest
 - 49 "Monsters, ___"
 - 50 Roomie
 - 51 Little Ritchie's "___ Frutti"
 - 52 P.M.'s title of respect
 - 57 Interpreters: Abbr.
 - 58 Highways and byways: Abbr.
 - 59 ___ Kosh B'Gosh

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	4		8			9	2	
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KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE
\$1,649,000



3 X BED 3 X BATH
2.58 ACRES BOATHOUSE MLS# 40485914

GELERT ROAD
\$1,639,000



3 X BED 3 X BATH
14 ACRES 2500+ SQ. FEET MLS# 40499725

WENONA LAKE
\$1,225,000



3 X BED 3 X BATH
WESTERN EXPOSURE SAUNA MLS# 40547278

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$999,000



3 X BED 2 X BATH
169 ACRES SOUTH WEST EXPOSURE MLS# 40424313

KENNISIS LAKE
\$830,000



3 X BED 2 X BATH
SOUTHERN EXPOSURE BOATHOUSE MLS# 40552668

BETHEL ROAD
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MUNICIPAL ROAD
24.65 ACRES 330 FT. FRONTAGE MLS# 40476956

GRACE RIVER ROAD
\$185,000



2.61 ACRES LAKEFRONT MLS# 40549856

GRACE RIVER ROAD
\$179,000



1.23 ACRES RIVERFRONT MLS# 40549838

LAKEVIEW ST.
\$159,900



MUNICIPAL ROAD
1.47 ACRES GREAT LOCATION MLS# 40538935

GULL LAKE
\$1,290,000



MLS# 40546940

HWY 118
\$479,000



MLS# 40543181

MOUNTAIN STREET
\$628,000



MLS# 40529487

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$875,000



MLS# 40534333

VICTORIA STREET
\$425,000



MLS# 40530312

SALERNO LAKE ROAD
\$449,500



MLS# 0487128

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